

THE

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

ST. ANDREW'S HERALD

St. Andrew's Church Chippenham with St. Nicholas' Tytherton Lucas



Photo: Liz Blum

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No. 52
April 2023

THE ST. ANDREW'S HERALD



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

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Photo: Remy Osman

**“Things end... a period of fertile
turmoil follows... new things begin.”**

I'm fond of telling the story of a huge conference of Psychoanalysts, Counsellors and Therapists in Dallas, Texas in the 1990's. Everybody who was anybody in the world of psychotherapy was there.

As an icebreaker they were given the task of stating in one simple sentence what the process psychoanalysis is all about – and it had to be a sentence that everyone could understand and they all agreed with!

They failed – they weren't able to come up with the equivalent of, “There are no free lunches”; but they came pretty close, because they did all agree these three (fairly) short sentences:

“Things end.

A period of fertile turmoil follows.

New things begin.”

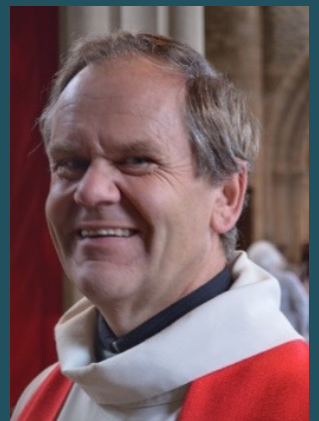
The story goes that while they were congratulating themselves on their success, one bright spark piped up...

, “Oh, so you mean death followed by resurrection?” And of course they did, but they weren’t going to admit it!

It’s a shame that “a period of fertile turmoil” couldn’t be reduced to a word, but I’m glad they insisted on “fertile” because it means that the time of adjustment between the new and the old needs to be looked at positively, even though it can be very painful. The path of bereavement is certainly one that no one would portray as easy, yet it is a natural expression of love, however painful, and it explores the deepest realities of our human journey. “New things begin” is a simple but powerful expression of hope, without which the journey is pointless.

As we rejoice in the Easter victory of God’s love, we can reflect – with that hope of new life – that the path to that victory was costly, painful and full of turmoil. Easter can’t be real unless Good Friday is real to us. And the clear message of our Christian faith, from the Word made flesh to the empty tomb, is that there was no other way. Love is costly.

So as Sue and I approach our “goodbye” at the end of this month, the challenge is both for us and for you to see the time ahead in that positive and hopeful light. Yes, it may be painful; but it is also an opportunity to grow and find new resources and new beginnings in the community of faith that continues here. And it is God who watches over you and us – always has and always will.



God bless,

Rod

Services for Holy Week and Easter

For St. Andrews'. Please see pg 16 for St. Nicholas' Tytherton Lucas

Sunday 2nd April

Palm Sunday & Start of Holy Week

Holy Monday 3rd April

8 pm Compline & Reflection

Holy Tuesday 4th April

8 pm Compline & Reflection

Holy Wednesday 5th April

8pm Compline & Reflection

Maundy Thursday 6th April

7.30 pm Eucharist with Foot Washing

(We remember Jesus washing his disciples' feet, and his gift of himself to us in bread & wine on the night of the Last Supper. At the end of the service, around 8.30 pm, there is a time of silent prayer – "The Watch" – when we recall Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane. You are welcome to stay as short or long a time as you wish)

Good Friday 7th April

10.30 am Children's "Way of the Cross" & Easter Garden
2 pm "The Last Hour" in Church

Sunday 9th April—EASTER DAY

6.15 am Dawn Service

9 am Eucharist

10.30 am Festival Eucharist with the New Fire
& Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Autumn Fayre Expenses

COFFEE MORNING



will be held in Church on
SATURDAY 15th APRIL 2023
10 AM – 12 NOON

***Raffle, Bring & Buy, Bric-a-brac,
cake stall etc***

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY
Autumn Fayre will be held on
Saturday 14TH October 2023

The Church Clock

The church clock at St Andrews was installed 165 years ago, in 1858. What was Chippenham like then? It must have been a sleepy place before the huge upheaval of the railway coming in 1841. There were houses, shops, horses and carts and some signs of progress such as New Road, built in 1792 to avoid Monkton Hill and Foghamshire; the arrival of the canal in 1803 and the gasworks at Westmead in 1835. There were a number of factories, mostly mills of one sort or another, and town buildings were being constructed such as the Town Hall (1834, extended 1850). It must have been a rather unsanitary place, as the waterworks did not open until 1876 and the sewage works in 1906! In fact 1858 was the year of the 'Great Stink' in London.

The speed and efficiency of the railway caused a decline in canal and horse transport and a need for a country-wide accurate time became necessary although 'Railway Time' was not legally adopted until 1880. The previous church clock of 1738 only struck the hours and did not have a dial. Useful for workers in the fields, perhaps, but not much good for people wishing to catch a train at the station.

The Town Clock project was promoted by the Mayor, Jacob Phillips, and a Public Meeting was held on the 20th May 1858 to raise funds, the result being the contract with Henry Weight of Malmesbury, dated 29th June, to provide a clock "on or before the 7th day of October" in the church, not the new Town Hall...

I believe this date was met, an amazing achievement considering the work involved. So it seems the clock belonged to the borough; indeed the back-lighting of the face was ordered by them to be moved from gas to electricity in March 1914, presumably to reduce the energy bill.

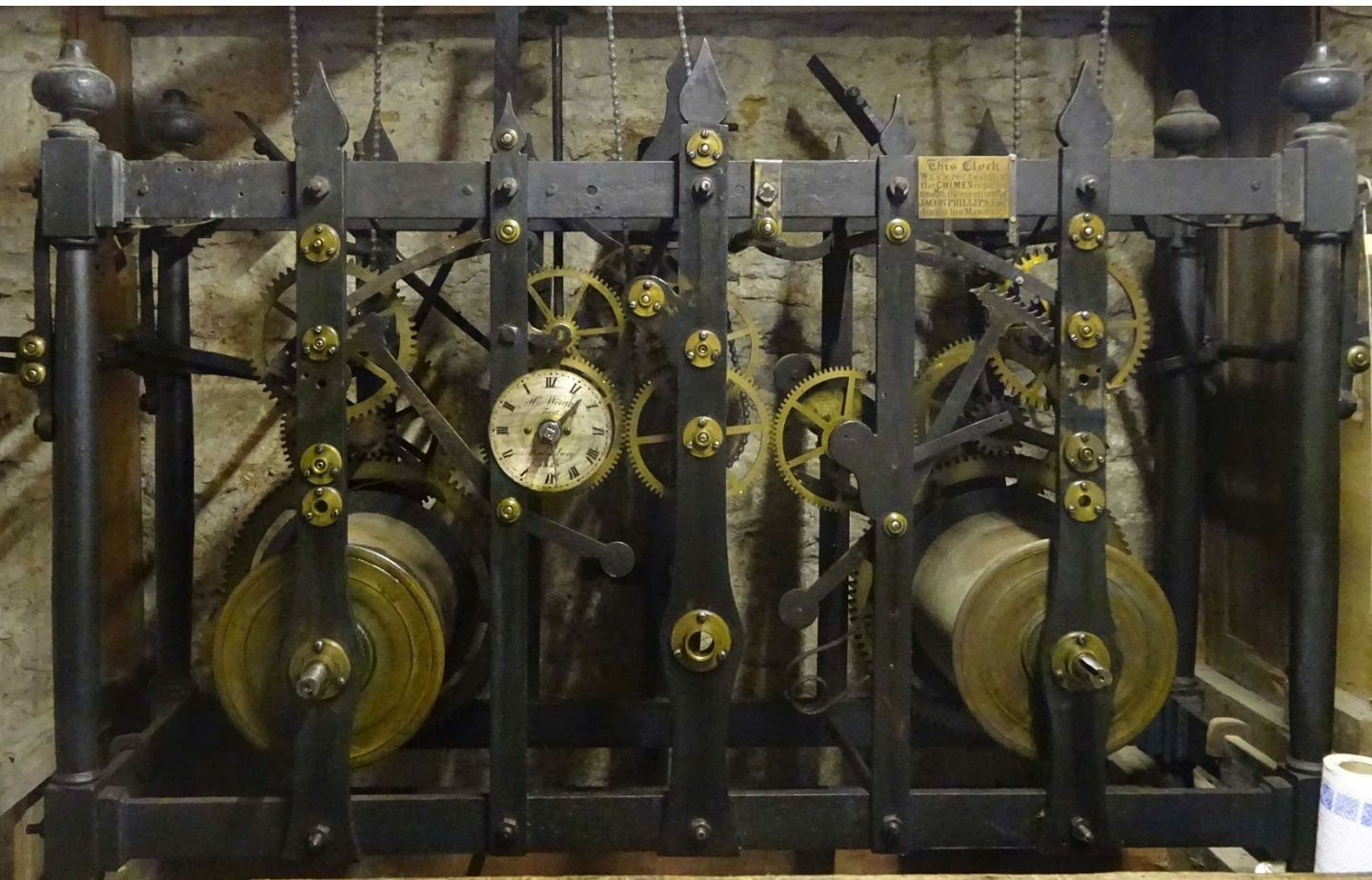


That six foot diameter face was originally a single heavy cast glass plate, but this was replaced in 1976 by the current plastic one for safety reasons. A large enough sheet was not available, hence the join across the middle!

Continued over

**This Clock
Was erected, and
the CHIMES repaired
through the exertions of
JACOB PHILLIPS, Esq.
during his Mayoralty.**

The clock itself is of the 'posted frame' type (a bit like a four poster bed) about 5ft by 2ft 6in by 3ft high and is connected to the hands on the outside by long shafts and bevel gears. It had three drums or barrels which were wound by hand every week, a very tiring job as the three heavy weights had to be cranked up inside a long wooden case from the floor to the ceiling of the foyer, and through the ringing room above. The site of where it was can still be seen in the north west corner of those rooms. However, in 1976 electric winders were fitted which automatically wind up the weights so the only attention now is to adjust the time, which the bellringers do usually on a Sunday morning or a Wednesday practice night. The clock mechanism faces the wall so when you approach it you are looking at its back; hence the small clock dial used to adjust it goes backwards or anti-clockwise!



The pendulum shaft is made of wood to reduce the effect of temperature. It is quite thin considering the bob on the end must weigh over 200lbs (90 kgs), and is suspended by a thin ribbon of spring steel, but I suppose it has been there for 165 years so it should be alright and it keeps very good time! The pendulum has a length of 100inches (2.54 metres) and a period of 3.2 seconds giving 37 ½ ticks per minute. Well, it doesn't have to be a round number does it?

The chimes are sounded by an ingenious mechanism: stepped cams set the correct number of 'chimes' and 'strikes' (we call them 'ting-tangs' and 'bongs') and then racks count the blows as they happen. Wires pass up through the ceiling to work iron hammers which strike on the outside of the rim of the bronze bells above. The quarters are struck on bells one and four, and the hours on bell number 8 (the tenor).

The clock should keep sounding out for many more years to come.

Bob Mustow



What is the Mothers' Union?

The Mothers' Union today is in 60 countries around the world and members share a commitment to improve their own family life and that of others through practical action and prayer. Projects range from small scale farming initiatives in Uganda to a network of family support groups in prisons around the United Kingdom. What's special is that these projects involve men and women working in their own community, be it in Wiltshire or Zambia.

Mary Sumner founded the Mothers' Union in 1876 in Old Alresford in Hampshire. She was a rector's wife and saw that women needed to come together - this was Victorian England when many mothers were working long hours and struggling to bring up a family. So she invited them to the Rectory and they shared in fellowship and prayer. I will write more about Mary Sumner on another occasion.

The MU is a member led organisation. Principal decisions in the governance of the Society are made by members who are elected by members. There is a Central Board of Trustees based in Westminster at Mary Sumner House, and chaired by the World Wide President, which manages the affairs of the Society. Mary Sumner House has been the headquarters of MU since 1925 and was originally built from monies raised by members from across the world. There is a professional staff which runs the chief executives office, and there is also a trading company - MU Enterprises Ltd - which supplies literature and cards, etc. Trustee Board members are elected by World Wide Council and serve for three years. World Wide Council is made up of Diocesan Presidents, Trustees and representative members. The professional staff implement the policy agreed by the trustees; legislation and social policy are monitored and we work to get our voice heard in the public debate on marriage and family life. MU has a voice in the United Nations and particularly on the political, economic, civil, social and educational rights of women.

The work of the MU is vast - projects outside of the UK are supported by an Overseas Fund and include training members in developing leadership and advocacy skills, funding seminars and conferences on issues affecting everyday lives, grants for vehicles (Land Rovers and boats) to enable workers to reach remote areas, encouragement of self help initiatives, and funding provincial workers working with street children and education on HIV and AIDS. There is also a Relief Fund specifically for emergencies and disasters, such as war, famine, flood and earthquakes. Within the UK funds are supplied to support projects such as Away From It All, which gives people suffering financial hardship or stress a much needed holiday - applicants generally being referred by social workers, clergy and teachers. There are also parenting groups, support for families where one partner may be in prison and MU supervises children in play areas in the visits hall, supporting women's refuges, refugees, standing against domestic abuse and gender-based violence and many other initiatives run at Diocesan level.

Prayer is central to all we do - in the MU prayer we say we are 'united in prayer, worship and fellowship'. Mothers' Union has a diverse membership of women and men, married and unmarried, divorced, parents and non-parents of all ages but all support the Mothers' Union aims and mission.

Denise Addison

Branch Leader





Our box coordinator is *Margaret Harrison*



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Mothers' Union Update

'Members and friends heard a wonderful talk by Stephen Starr about the history of Bowood House and its gardens at the March meeting. He told us that originally the house had been much larger and he was able to show us photos which also included those during the First World War when the orangery was used by injured service men for recuperation. He went on to tell us about the parkland designed by Capability Brown, and then about his own career over 37 years looking after the gardens and particularly his responsibility for the terraced beds.

Members enjoyed coming together to make the Mothering Sunday posies when the 'production line' produced much laughter intermingled with coffee and tea.

Please note the date for the April meeting will be Monday, 17 April and entitled 'An Easter Reflection'.

Denise Addison

Branch Leader



Letter from Uncle Eustace: *Beware when the choirs meet*

My dear Nephew Darren,

You agonised recently over your ecumenical service: who should be invited? Who should preach? What about the order of service? If you had attended our recent combined churches' choir festival, your own dilemmas would have seemed a little less acute.

At the pre-meeting, there was heated discussion about whether those choirs who normally wore robes would be comfortable standing among those who didn't. The more aesthetically sensitive worried whether St Agatha's pea green cassocks may clash with our red ones. Intending to be helpful, but phrasing it rather badly, someone suggested that the normally robed choirs should wear nothing. Colonel Wainwright was a little too quick to chuckle.

I began to wonder if a prize was to be awarded to the person who raised the greatest number of concerns: Should the choirs stay separate? Would the tenors be next to the altos or the basses? Where would extra seating be placed? Would the heating be on for the rehearsal? Then came what you would call the 'elephant in the room': of all the choirmasters, who would conduct and who play the organ? Tension mounted, and expressions grew grim. But before the committee started to dig trenches in my carpet and position howitzers under the desk, I briefly left the room, turned off all the electricity and claimed we'd had a power cut. This is a useful device for truculent committees; sadly, it can be used only rarely.

Come the day, an uneasy truce lasted while everyone adopted the traditional solution to disagreement within congregations, and simply did exactly what they wanted. Some were robed, some were not, some choirs congealed in their own huddles, while others joyfully sat next to people from other churches – mainly so they could point out their neighbour's wrong notes. Some sang in the right key, some sang in the wrong key, some sang what sounded like quite different songs altogether.

The service ended with one choir thinking that the organist had played too loudly, while another choir thought that the conductor wasn't up to much. Everyone agreed afterwards that we must do it again, while firmly stating that if their own choirmaster didn't conduct next year, they wouldn't be there.

Thankfully, one fundamental thing on the day united them: they all said that our church was too cold, and they all went down to the pub afterwards to warm up..

Your loving uncle, Eustace
(The Rectory, St. James the Least)



Parish Noticeboard

Services at St. Nicholas' Church, Tytherton Lucas

2nd April	<i>Palm Sunday</i>	6.30pm
7th April	<i>Good Friday Service</i>	10.00am
9th April	<i>Easter Sunday</i>	6.30pm
23rd April	<i>Evensong with Communion</i>	6.30pm

Sheila Laurence

01249 740687

100 Club Draw for last month

£100: 31 £40: 46 £25: 30

Margaret Harrison



EVENTS AT ST ANDREW'S

Sunday 23 April 7.30pm
Wiltshire Young Musicians

Friday 26 – Monday 29 April
Chippenham Folk Festival

Saturday 22 April 7.30pm
Concert in Aid of Wellboring

Sunday 23 April 7.30pm
Wiltshire Young Musicians

Friday 26 – Monday 29 May
Chippenham Folk Festival

Saturday 27 May All Day
All Day Coffee Shop (in King Alfred Hall)

Who's Who?

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Giving Officer

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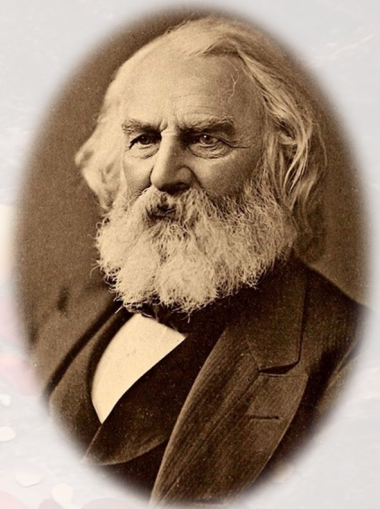
Dick Spencer 651565

Organ Rebuild Committee

Chris Higman
Chris@higman.eu

When You Pray

Let us then labour for an inward silence -
an inward stillness and an inward healing;
that perfect silence, where the lips and heart
are still
and we no longer entertain our own
imperfect thoughts
and vain opinions, but God alone speaks in
us, and we wait
in singleness of heart, that we may know His
will,
and in the silence of our spirit that we may
do His will,
and do that only.



**Henry Wadsworth –
Longfellow** (*poet*)
(1807-1882)

A Final Word

As I am certain is shared by everybody reading this, I do feel sad at the thought of Rod no longer being our Parish priest when he takes his much-deserved retirement later this month. Yet as is so often the case with Rod, he says many a wise thing in his opening piece in this month's magazine; despite the uncertainty or anxiousness we may feel when great things come to an end, we must have faith and hope that more good things are to come!

Having first come to St. Andrew's in 2016, Rod is "all I have ever known" yet I know there are some members in the congregation who have attended this Church for many decades. They will have probably felt sad when some of Rod's predecessors left Chippenham – but every time, this brought us closer to Rod!

I always found it interesting that my good friend James and I – who had met at St. Andrew's and been baptised together – ended leaving Chippenham in quick succession. This was in no way planned but rather a coincidence of our very different life paths, for me moving to Singapore, for James moving to Co. Durham. It was a "providential encounter" that we should meet in the first place, and I feel the same about meeting Rod and all of my other friends in the Chippenham and St. Andrew's. Rod will be sorely missed, but I have faith that there will be many great things to come for our Church and community.

Remy Osman – Editor

Church Services

St. Andrew's Parish Church, Chippenham with St. Nicolas' Tytherton Lucas

St Andrew's Church Chippenham

9am Eucharist

Alternating between traditional and contemporary language, this is a said service.

10.30am Eucharist

The main Parish Eucharist with singing and congregational hymns. Led by our robed choir on the 1st, 3rd and some 5th Sundays and the singing group on 2nd and 4th Sundays.

Evensong

6:30pm Second Sunday of the Month

St Nicholas' Tytherton Lucas

Evening Service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

3.30pm during the winter months October to March

6.30pm during the summer months April to September.

Please see inside on page 16 for more details.

This issue of the magazine was sponsored by:

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